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PH Nursing/Border Health
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Vital Records

Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee April 2011

Janet Wieczjorek, our EMS Coordinator who covers trauma and Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), is leaving for a move to the Bay area. Her husband John who works at OES on disaster preparedness has taken a position as a state regional coordinator. Janet has done great work on trauma and established a close relationship with the trauma coordinators and others. We will miss her and wish her and John success.

Travis Kusman accepted the position as Division General Manager of Rural Metro in Santa Clara County. Travis has been an integral member of the EMS system for years, including time as member and officer of many of our committees, in addition to his position at AMR. He has always focused on what is the best thing for our patients, and his judgment and opinions valued by those of us at EMS, as in the system at large. Our congratulations to Travis. We will miss him and wish him success in his new position.

Off Load Delays continue to cause concern. EMS has asked the hospitals to make prevention of off load delays a high priority. We are encouraging them to track delays. Also, to use the information in their high capacity plans when delays occur. We will be following up with them to collaborate on this important issue.

When prolonged off load delays occur, or affect numerous units at one facility, notify the EMS Duty Officer so they may be aware and see if any help can be afforded. Thanks for your help on this.

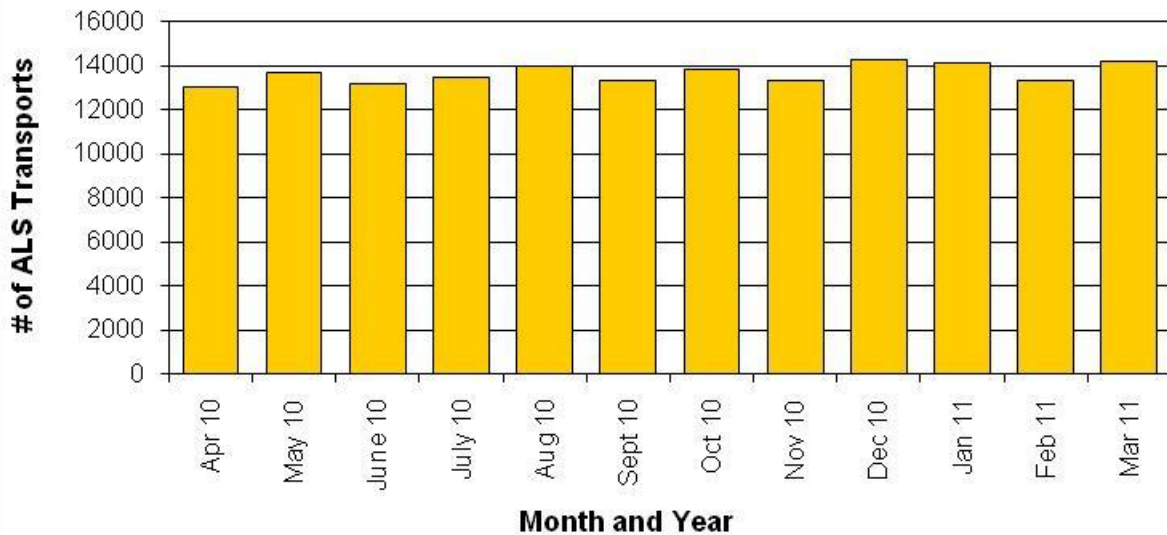
Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate) is a new anticoagulant used in atrial fibrillation and other conditions. It is attracting considerable attention as monitoring with blood tests is unnecessary, in contrast to Coumadin. It is not as easily reversed as Coumadin, however, if there is an injury or bleeding episode, so expect to hear more about this.

BLS transport issues led Emergency Medical Services to send the providers a communication addressing some of the problems. We are receiving reports of excessive use of

code 3 lights and siren responses. This is not appropriate to simply reduce response times for BLS transfers, and requires notification of local public safety agencies. In a number of cases patient care records are not left with the patient in the hospital ED after a transfer. This makes it difficult and time consuming for the emergency department to obtain needed information on the patient. Upon arrival to transport a patient, the BLS crew must identify the patient by checking wrist bands, talking to facility staff, and examining the chart if necessary. Finally, the BLS providers must have a contact for quality improvement follow-up. Contact Michael Marx at EMS for any questions or information.

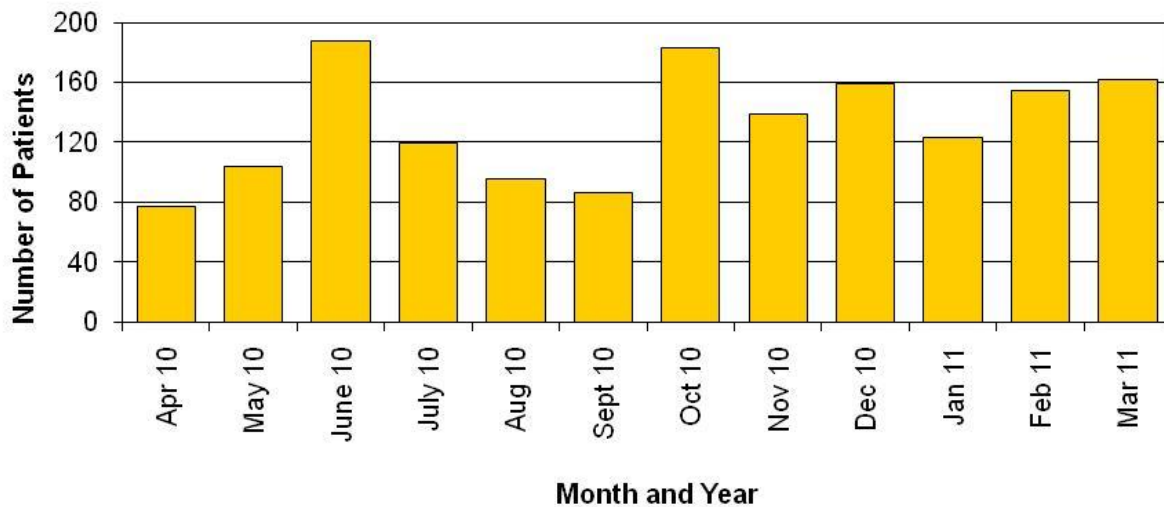
EMOC, led by chair Roneet Lev M.D., issued Emergency Department Guidelines for narcotic prescriptions. These recommend that patients with chronic pain have prescriptions provided by their caregiver. Patients who received a recent prescription for narcotics as determined by hospital medical records, or by the CURES database (a statewide database of controlled substance prescriptions) should not receive narcotic prescriptions for the same condition, but rather see their provider.

Number of ALS Transports, County of San Diego, Apr 2010 - Mar 2011

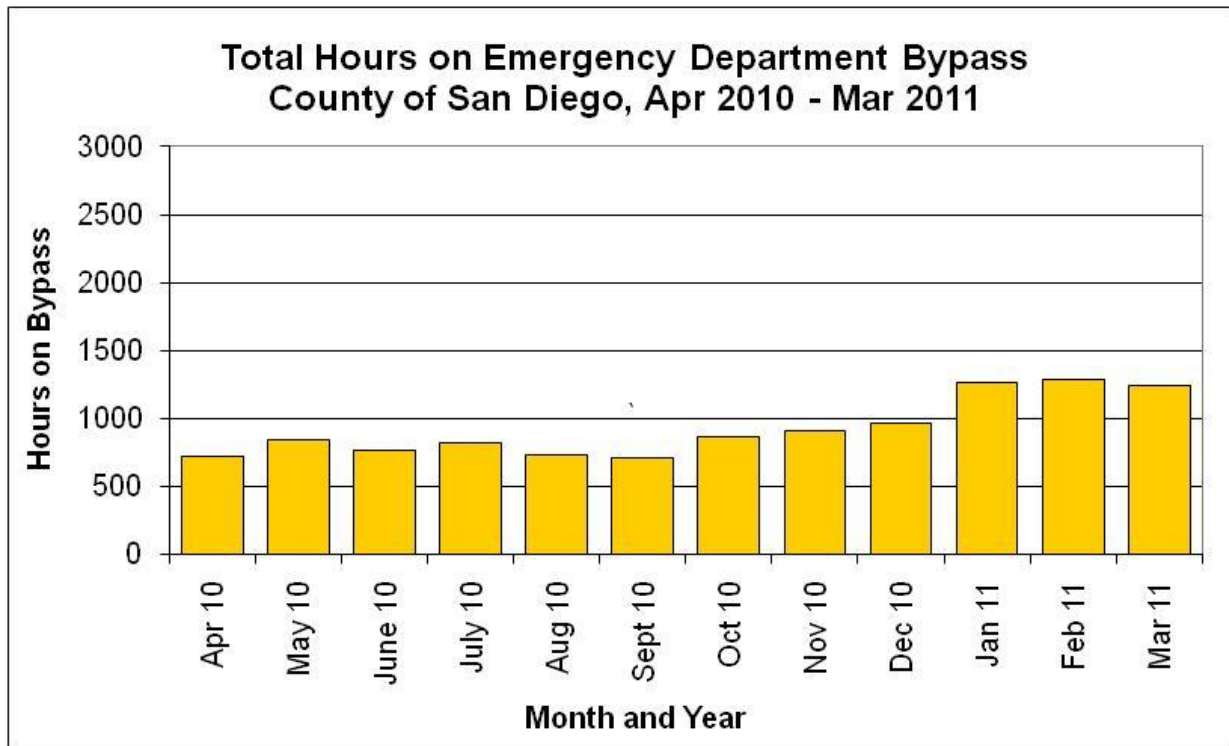


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Apr 2010 – Mar 2011 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

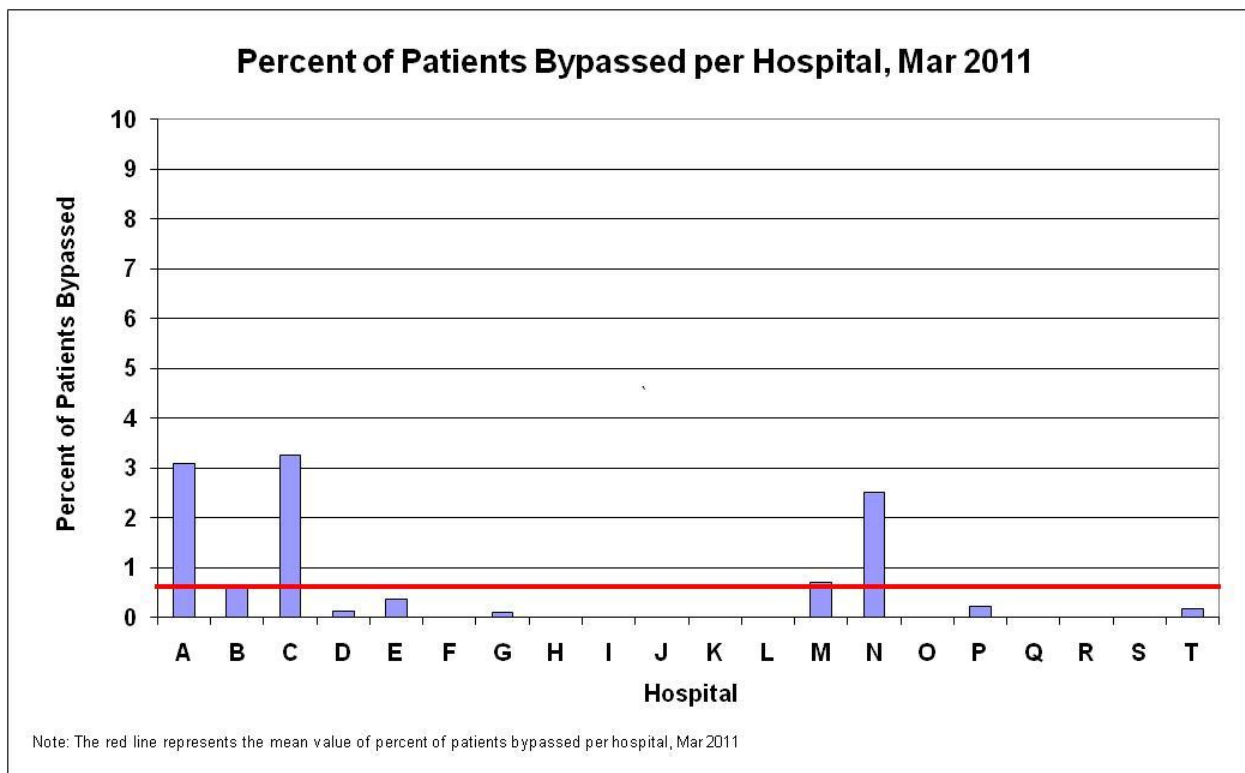
Number of Patients who Bypassed the Requested Hospital, County of San Diego, Apr 2010 - Mar 2011



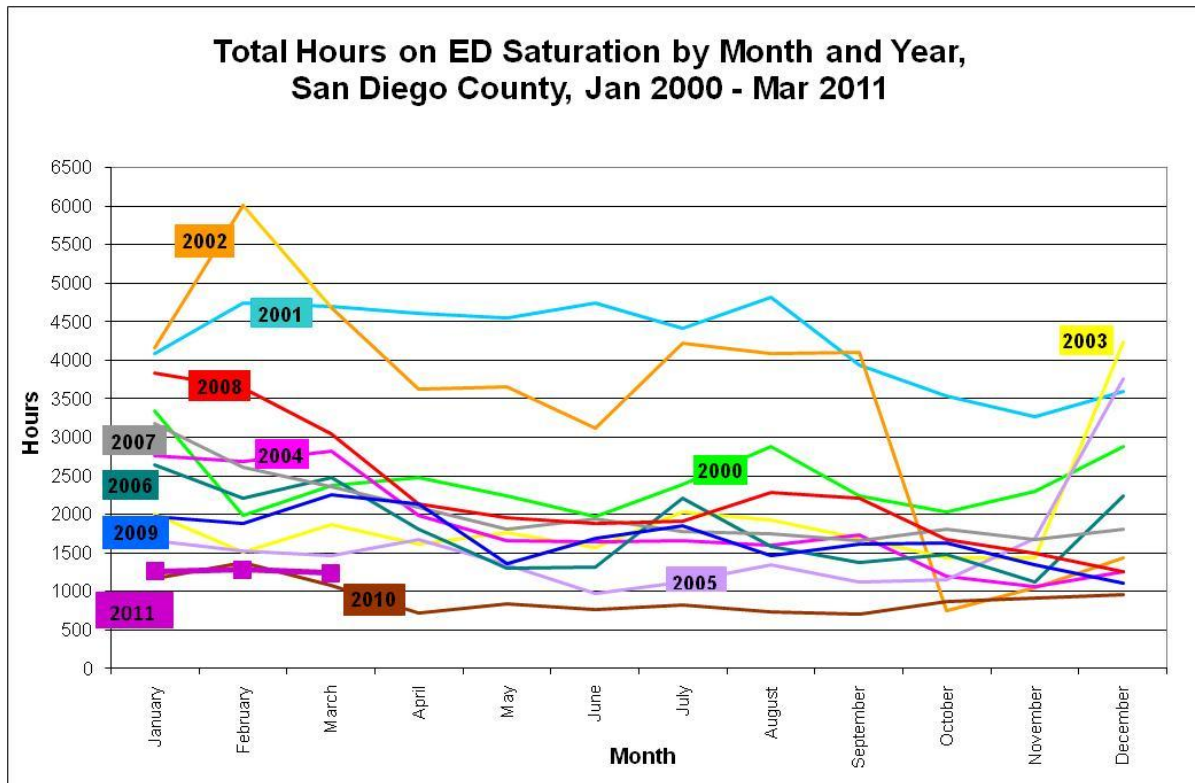
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Apr 2010 – Mar 2011 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



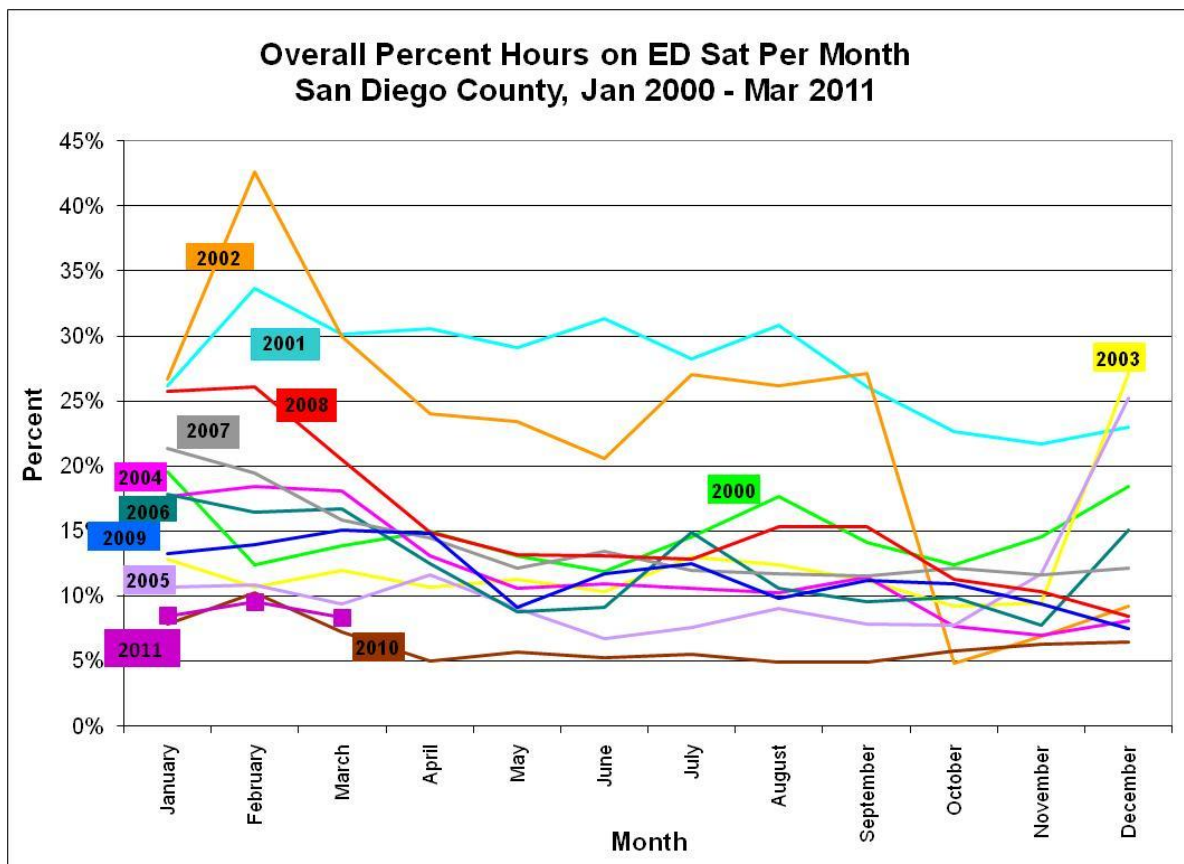
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Apr 2010 – Mar 2011



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Mar 2011
 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

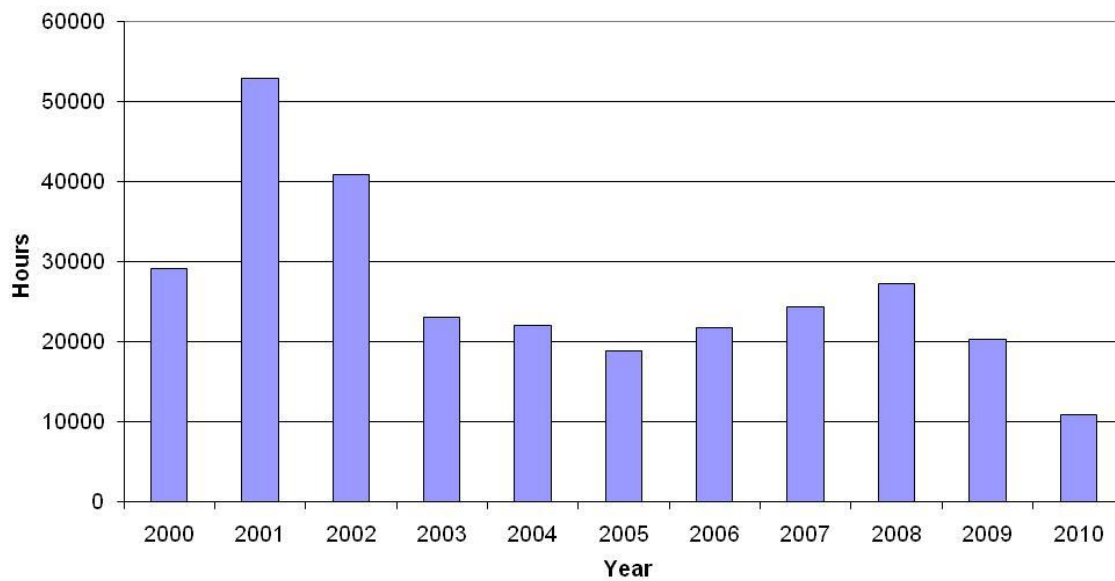


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Mar 2011



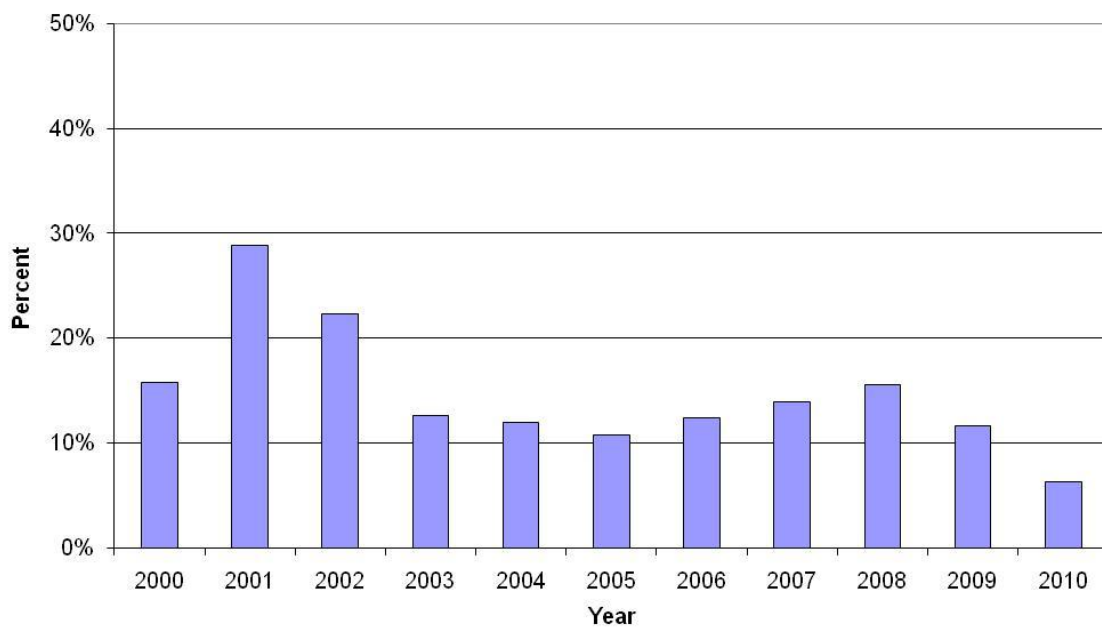
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Mar 2011

Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2010



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2010

Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2010



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2010